

Amendments to the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraphs for the original paragraphs having the same number.

[0029] The resistance of separator pad 58 to a displacement force, such as the force exerted by loading stack 42 or feeding sheets from stack 42 (see Fig. 5), depends on the spacing of ridges 116. A constant force will displace separator pad 58 more where ridges 116 are farther apart, at a downstream part of pad 58, (Fig. 19), than when ridges 116 are closer together, at an upstream part of pad 58 (Fig. 18). Hence, pad 58 resists the movement of media sheets more at the bottom, upstream part where the displacement force, due to loading a stack, is greater than at the top, downstream part where the displacement force, due only to sheet separation, is smaller.